vehicles. Certain fiscal incentives were being given for manufacture of such vehicles. However, as a result of rationalisation of duty structure, these incentives have since been withdrawn.

(c) Automotive vehicle manufacturers have entered into foreign technical collaborations to import technology for manufacture of fuel efficient vehicles.

Domestic Demand and Import of Coffee

1292. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of average monthly requirement of coffee in the domestic market at present;

(b) the total quantity of coffee sold with its value in the domestic market during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any gap between demand and supply of coffee in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the demand of coffee in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The average monthly requirement of coffee in the domestic market is estimated around 4500-5500 tonne.

(b) The total quantity of coffee sold with its value in the domestic market is as follows :-

Year	Quantity (in tonne)	Value (Rs. In crore)
1993	49928	231.97
1994	54000	542.70
1995	54000	583.20

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Coffee Board undertakes various promotional measures like participation in festivals fairs and exhibitions in the internal market to promote consumption of coffee. The Board also conducts training programme in coffee brewing techniques to promote consumption of coffee.

Setting up of A Task Force on Common Effluent Treatment Plants

1293. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a task force for coordination the issue relating to setting up of common effluent treatment plants and remove impediments causing delays in the commissioning of projects;

(b) if so, the composition of the task force;

(c) whether the representatives of the financial institutions have also been associated with the task force; and

(d) the extent to which the task force has helped in removing the impediments causing delays in the commissioning of projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Govt. has constituted a task force on 5.7.96 to co-ordinate action relating to setting up of common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) for tanneries. This task force is composed of representatives from the following organisations including financial institutions :-

Ministries of Environment & Forests, Industry, Commerce; Central Leather Research Institute; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute; Central/ State Pollution Control Boards of Tamil Nadu, UP, West Bengal, IDBI; SIDBI; HUDCO; UNIDO; National Leather Development Programme and Council for leather exports.

(d) The Task Force has been coordinating all matters relating to CETPs. In its first meeting on 15.10.96 issues concerning removal of ceiling on Central subsidy on setting up of CETPs; providing bridge loan facility by financial Institutions; providing technical consultancy by CLRI and NEERI for preventing of tannery pollution; review of pollution discharge norms; import duty concessions on certain special chemicals and equipments required for treatment of tannery effluent etc. were considered.

Filling up of Reserved Posts in RBI

1294. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the posts reserved in class IV and class III for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not being filled up in Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the recruitment with proper justice to all categories?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there is no backlog in Scheduled Castes posts, either in clerical or sub-staff categories. There is, however, backlog in Scheduled Tribes posts in these categories. RBI have further reported that due to the on-going re-organisation of certain departments, increasing computerisation and devolution of powers to public sector banks in respect of certain function shitherto performed by the Bank, there has been a decline in its staff requirements. However, the backlog of Scheduled

Tribe posts would be taken care of when fresh recruitment is done in future.

Co-operative Bank of India

1295. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to grant licence to Co-operative Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a society by the name 'National Co-operative Bank of India' has sought a licence to conduct banking business. RBI has further informed that grant of such a licence will require amendment of the Banking Regulation Act.

Industrial Backward Regions

1296. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that disparity between backward regions and developing regions has increased manifold and backward regions in many States continue to remain backward inspite of Government's incentives for setting up of industry in backward regions due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering a fresh package of incentives for backward regions and workout effective and pragmatic strategies for industrialisation of backward regions and removal of imbalance in inter-regional growth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Government is aware that because of lack of infrastructure facilities, some regions have remained industrially backward. The Government, therefore, is facilitating promotion of more investment in infrastructure, both in public and private sector. Besides the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like the Transport Subsidy Scheme, the Growth Centre Scheme and the Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme, the Government has recently announced various fresh initiatives for accelerated development of North-Eastern Region, which is one of the most backward regions of the country.

Foreign Direct Investment in Small and Medium Sector

1297. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to make foreign direct investment in small and medium sectors attractive and also use this segment of industry for sourcing semi or fully finished goods for international markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of reserved categories and items reserved for small scale sector and extent of dereservation proposed;

(c) the likely impact of the proposed changes; and

(d) the reaction of small scale sector to the proposed dereservation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. Presently, equity investment in small scale industries by domestic or foreign companies is limited to 24 per cent. On account of investment limits in plant and machinery, extent of foreign direct investment in the small scale sector is negligible.

(b) to (d). Presently, there are 836 products reserved for production in the small scale sector. Large companies, whether domestic or foreign can undertake manufacture of reserved items, only if they undertake an export obligation of a minimum of 75 per cent of annual production. The list of reserved items has remained the same since July, 1989.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table.

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-662/96]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-663/96]